

IT WAS NOT FOUL PLAY

BUT AN INSTANCE OF SELF-MURDER

That Was the Result of the Investigation as to the Cause of the Death of John G. Wharton—The Testimony.

The investigation into the cause of the death of the late John G. Wharton, who was popularly believed to have committed suicide at his home on the Mechanicsville turnpike lately, was resumed before Squire Frisckhorn on yesterday, at the county court-house, with Mr. H. R. Pollard representing the Commonwealth and Mr. G. W. Thomas looking after the interests of Mrs. Wharton, the widow of the deceased man. There was quite a large attendance, showing the interest manifested in the matter and the witnesses were listened to with attention by the auditors. There were summoned the same witnesses who testified a few days since, and the additional ones whose testimony and replies to questioning from Messrs. Pollard and Thomas are given as follows:

Dr. Blankenship testified: I was summoned to see Mr. Wharton by Constable Nease and viewed the body, which was sitting in a chair with only a shirt on, the head leaning against the bureau and a run between the legs. I found the upper part of his head and face blown away, the eyes, brain and skull being scattered over the walls and ceiling. I noticed no other injuries or marks. I did not see any cut on his nose. I could say that the gun was very close to his face, either with his mouth or in his mouth or very near it. The facial bones and forehead were shattered and the face was blackened with the powder. I never saw called to see him before. Mrs. Wharton seemed quiet and composed, but evidently distressed. I did not make a close examination of the room, but I think from all the circumstances it was a case of suicide.

BADLY TREATED.
Mr. F. J. Parrish testified: When I came in the house I asked Mrs. Wharton what was the matter with John and why should he have killed himself. She said that he had told her he was badly treated. I felt his pulse when I went in the room. He was still warm when I entered there—about twenty minutes after the shot was heard. I have known the couple for six years and never heard of any domestic troubles between them, but always thought them very fond of each other. Mrs. Wharton seemed much distressed, although she did not weep or cry out.

Mr. Charles Felby testified: I have known the deceased some time, ten years or more. One night he told me that he felt so mean he had a great mind to cut his throat. I told him nonsense. I know nothing of any insanity in the family.

THE CORONER.
Dr. A. L. Leftwich, the county coroner, testified: I was the family physician of the deceased and his wife. I have been there at all times, day and night, and never heard of the slightest discord between them. Mrs. Wharton sent for me the morning after the shooting. She was very much affected by the trouble. I had not prescribed for him for a year. He was a nervous sort of man of a melancholy disposition. Since this occurrence I have heard that there was insanity in the family, though I know nothing of it personally.

Mrs. Wharton, at several times, friends, came into the room at this point, but was not called on to testify, for Justice Frisckhorn stated that he had carefully looked into the case and was so thoroughly satisfied that it was a case of suicide, which was brought on by the temporary insanity of the man, that with the consent of the acting Commonwealth's attorney he would close the investigation and so exonerate and clear Mrs. Wharton from any suspicion that might be entertained against her. That lady received the decision with calmness. She is a pleasant person, with evident traces of suffering from the late trouble she has been through, and was warmly congratulated by her friends who were with her. She told me that she was much pleased with this official vindication of herself, adding that she never had any fear of any investigation whatever, for she knew she was innocent of any sort of blame in the matter.

She impressed me as a woman of self-control and not likely to give way to her feelings or make any demonstrations in case of trouble.

BELIEVE FOUL PLAY.
The uncles of the deceased were far from pleased at the result of the investigation and repeated to me their belief that their nephew was the victim of foul play. As one of them put it: "He was just as surely murdered as I am sure that I am talking to you." The other uncles backed the testimony of some of the witnesses who had just testified and said he could prove that one man's testimony was untrue.

As far as I can learn the result was just what was expected, for nobody except the Whartons had any interest in the case, and any sort of doubt but that the poor fellow had killed himself. So the curtain falls on another tragedy where the actor was "one more unfortunate weary of life."

There is much complaint around the court-house as to the way in which Dr. Leftwich serves the county as coroner. I was told yesterday that in this case of Wharton he did not come to the house till the next morning after the suicide and in another case the coroner had to be sent for to go to the dead body. He told the people to go ahead and prepare the body for burial and he would hold an inquest if necessary afterwards. This before he viewed the body.

Richmond's Share.
Colonel W. P. Smith, who has been appointed commissioner to distribute the direct tax money in the city of Richmond among the owners of property as recorded in 1890 who paid the taxes, is still kept very busy in straightening out the general matters in connection with the matter. His daily mail is very large, and he is asked numerous questions in connection with the distribution of the money. In that manner Colonel Smith has been compelled to devote nearly all his time to the matter, and he has not had an opportunity to attend to his own affairs.

The law allows him thirty days from the day of his appointment as commissioner within which to qualify. The money to be distributed by Colonel Smith in this city amounts to about \$4,600, and he will therefore be compelled to give bond for \$36,000. Colonel Smith expects to dispose of the general business in about two weeks, when he will begin to pay out the tax money in this city.

A warrant for \$9,214.76 was yesterday issued to Han Pifer, who has been appointed commissioner of Frederick county.

No commissioner has yet been appointed for James City county, but the Governor has been requested by a gentleman from that locality to withhold the appointment until he has heard from the citizens of that county, who will present the name of a Democrat for the office who will be acceptable to all.

Annual Report of the C. and O. R. R.
The annual report for the year ending June 30, 1892, of M. E. Ingalls, president of the Chesapeake and Ohio railway, presents some remarkable statistics. The company was reorganized in the fall of 1889, the year previous to which it earned \$4,500,000. Last year it earned over \$9,000,000. Not only was there an increase in passenger earnings, but also in the rate per mile, while freight traffic increased with very nearly the same rate per mile. To meet the demand of the heavy export traffic, new freight and passenger cars and increased yards have been completed at Newport News. Forty miles of double track over the mountains now bearing completion will be increased to seventy miles during the next year. New branch lines to valuable coal fields completed within the past year and others very nearly completed will give increased traffic of that class. The main line is laid with seventy-five pound steel, stone ballasted, and together with the rolling stock greatly augmented during the past year, is in the finest condition. With all these increased facilities the cost of hauling traffic will be greatly reduced. For the first time in its history the Chesapeake and Ohio seems to have reached a dividend producing period. By the conversion of preferred stock into 4% per cent. gold bearing bonds, a scheme which was approved by the stockholders

with great unanimity. There is a fixed income from these holdings, while by the scheme, common stock is placed nearer a dividend.

JUSTICE JOHN'S COURT.

The Great Dispenser of Equity Tried the Causes of the Children of Men.

The docket at the police court yesterday was short, and the cases below were some disposed of.

John R. Hall, who came up for the theft of a coat and waistcoat from M. Marks, was dismissed.

Richard V. Turner (colored), for beating Nanette Pines, was fined \$10 and costs.

The charge against William Edwards for vagrancy was dismissed.

George Andrews paid \$2 and costs for being drunk, and the same disposition was made of George W. Moyes for the same offense.

Arthur Thomas paid \$2 for leaving his team standing in the street.

Henry Clay, for drunkenness, paid \$2 and costs.

Henry Jones and Frank Anthony were each fined \$2.50 and costs for being drunk, disorderly and fighting in the street.

John Haky was fined \$2 and costs for being drunk.

John O'Day paid \$2 and costs for being drunk.

Ben Cooper, for allowing his horse to run at large, was fined \$2.

Henry Rhodes, for beating E. A. Fox, was dismissed.

Gilmer and G. Lee Cole, for assaulting John H. Ford, were dismissed, and so was the charge against Gilmer Lee Cole for the theft of money from Ford.

Lucy Robinson (colored) paid costs for assaulting and kicking Dora Burnett, and Dora Burnett paid costs for trespassing on Lucy's premises.

Hattie Harper and Josie Tuttle (colored) were each fined \$2.50 and costs for improper conduct on the streets.

Willie Scott, for disorder and "shooting craps" in the street, was fined \$2.50 and costs.

Peter Taylor (colored) was made to find security in \$100 for thirty days for abuse and threatening Allen Morris.

Mahala Hickman (colored), for beating John Johnson, was fined \$2.50 and costs, and the charge against Martha Johnson for cursing Mahala Hickman was dismissed.

Archer Conway, for leaving his team in the street, paid \$2 fine.

W. A. Smith, for allowing his cow to run at large, was fined \$2.

OLD DOMINION DEMOCRATS.

The Club Members Are Putting on Their War Paint for the Coming Campaign.

The Old Dominion Democratic Club held a meeting last evening at its rooms on Nineteenth and Main streets, with Vice-President William W. Wood in the chair. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for the raising of a banner and a great public demonstration in honor of the Democratic candidates as soon as possible.

Another committee was appointed to provide for prominent speakers for that occasion. Mr. John Wilks stated that he had very reason to believe that Colonel John R. Feltows, of New York, would address the club that evening, for he had promised to make one speech in Richmond during the campaign.

A resolution was adopted providing that the club should meet hereafter during the campaign every Thursday evening.

After the transaction of a good deal of routine business Squire Frank Jones, of Sugar Bottom, made a short speech and urged all members of the club to do earnest work during the campaign.

At the close of the meeting of the club the committee on banner-raising held a short conference to discuss the plan to be adopted by them.

LAID HER TO REST.

Mrs. John M. Higgins was Buried Yesterday from St. Peter's.

A very large crowd was present at St. Peter's Cathedral yesterday morning when the funeral services were held over the remains of Mrs. Kate Cecilia Higgins, wife of Mr. John M. Higgins.

The deceased was a native of Virginia, and was a member of the Episcopal church. She was a devoted wife and mother, and was much beloved by all who knew her. She died at her home in Richmond, Virginia, on the 18th inst.

Rev. Father Froil celebrated the requiem mass and Captain Frank Cunningham sang "Jesus, Lover of my Soul." The floral tributes were very handsome and numerous.

Among those in attendance were a great many city officials, and the line of carriages which followed the remains to the last resting-place at Mount Calvary was very long.

During the services at the cathedral Mr. Gerald Higgins, youngest son of the deceased, and was taken to the Episcopal residence by Dr. W. H. Scott and others, where Dr. Coleman attended him. He came to himself in a short while and was left in charge of Father Tierney and others.

Rehearsing in Richmond.
The Maclean-Prescott Company are busily engaged rehearsing at the Richmond Theatre the plays for their repertoire on the road the coming season. They will be their own "production," as technically called, because they carry their own scenery, costumes and properties, and they promise faithful attention to detail in putting on their plays, all of which will be of the legitimate drama.

They open the regular season at the house Monday evening next with Shakespeare's "Merchant of Venice," by Shakespeare, as adapted by Sheridan Knowles' play of "The Duke's Wife," a strong drama.

The plays will be alternated the first week, and others are rehearsing. In the "Merchant of Venice" Mr. Maclean will be Shylock, the few that Shakespeare gave him. Maclean will be the Portia, and Bassanio's lines fall to Mr. Barry Jonstone, who will be the leading man of the company.

The Virginia Sun Chartered.
In the city circuit court yesterday Judge Welles granted a charter to the Virginia Publishing Company. The capital stock is to be not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, divided into shares of \$10 each.

The officers for the first year are: Mann Page, president; J. J. Silver, secretary; and Mann Page, J. J. Silver, A. R. Venable, H. A. Miller and J. H. Holston, directors.

The object of the company is to conduct a general newspaper and book and job printing office.

Suit was instituted by A. B. Hostetter against P. T. Berry for \$1,603.05. Judgment was confessed.

A special term of the court has been called for the 1st of September.

Shot in the House.
Constable Samuel, of Henrico county, was chasing around after a boy named George Smith last yesterday. George got hold of a pistol and fired at the house of Mr. George Snellingberg in Fulton.

The ball went through the window, and passed very near Mr. Snellingberg, frightening her very much. So far the boy has eluded arrest, but he will soon be found, the Constable tells me.

Hurt by a Car.
While an electric car was going up Seventh street yesterday morning and when in front of the Vulcan Iron Works a little white boy attempted to cross the street. He ran from behind a dirt cart which was going in an opposite direction and did not see the car until he struck it broadside. He was knocked down by the step and was severely cut and bruised.

The Ambulance Yesterday.
Only twice were the physicians called out with the ambulance yesterday.

At 8:35 A. M. to Twenty-fifth and Cary streets a colored woman with convulsions, who was treated and left.

At 2:45 P. M. to St. James and Jackson streets to a colored woman suffering with asthma, who was treated and taken home on Duval near First street.

Property Transfers.
Richmond.—M. F. Pleasant to James N. Boyd, 46½ feet on west side Sixth street near Canal, \$3,336.30.

Henrico.—Hattie C. and T. A. Lamb to James H. Barton, 21 acres on New North road and New Henrico and Hanover turnpike, to correct error.

Everybody Gets One.
Every subscriber to THE DAILY TIMES gets one of our beautiful art supplements in colors next Sunday without any charge.

A RATTLING GOOD GAME

THAT BALL CONTEST ON THE ISLAND

All the "Cranks" Who Saw It Were Delighted—The Forest-Hill Boys Were Victorious, But It Was a Close Call.

Base-ball games at Island Park are like buying a ticket in a policy drawing. Sometimes you win and sometimes you don't. Sometimes you see a first-class game of ball and the next time you witness more foolish plays in one inning than a lot of school boys would be guilty of in a week. Yesterday was prize day, and everybody who dropped a quarter in the slot received a prize. Even the small boy who perched himself on the right-field fence was a recipient, and there was the happiest-looking lot of men going home about 6:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon that ever crossed Mayo's bridge.

The contest was between the Forest Hill and Bedford City teams, and matters looked blue indeed for the Colts from Manchester when the game commenced. Hartford had promised to pitch for Captain Matthews men, but at the last moment he found it impossible to do so and Belcher was begun as pitcher. No one ever saw him pitch before and every one predicted that the Mountaineers would wipe up the earth with the Forest Hill team.

Belcher went into the box and everybody expected to see the sphere sail into all parts of the field and hits as numerous as seeds in a watermelon. Wigmore led his team at the bat and the bleachers watched expectantly for his first base. He struck out instead. Keeler followed and made a hit over Kain's head, at least it had to be scored as one, because just as Kain reached to "field" the ball it struck a runner completely over his head.

Riley struck out and the spectators nudged one another and their opinion of Belcher grew. Rainey after four balls received his base and Lyston ended the inning by a foul to Foster.

THE COLTS OUT.
The Colts in the second went out in the one, two, three and Colburn began the second for the visitors by striking out. Again the spectators wondered who was Belcher. Brodie fielded the new Clarkson for a cut ball. Boys flocked out to Lipscomb. Another completely over his head. Brodie his second bag, and Wigmore's drive to left put Brodie on third. While Keeler was dallying at the plate Foster led a swift ball to Tate, and Wigmore ended the inning by being put out at first. It was pretty close.

In the third Belcher was first to the bat, and as he shouldered the ash he was greeted with warm applause. He went out at first. Kain went out in the same way. B. Bradley made a hit over Wigmore's head and threw by Keeler landed him on third. Bradley acted very foolishly while running by watching the ball. Good ball players never watch the ball while running. Foster ended the inning by hitting the ball into the Colburn. The Mountaineers went out in the one, two, three.

In the fourth the Colts scored. Tate went out, second to first. Lipscomb followed and went out, pitcher to first. Reynolds made a hit for a second base, and an error by Riley gave Reynolds a chance to cross the rubber.

In the latter half of the inning the Mountaineers sent four men to the bat, one of them reaching second base.

In the fifth W. Bradley reached first and second on a wild throw by Brodie, and Kain's sacrifice sent him to third. He was again in the line of carriages in the inning went out one, two, three.

STRUCK BY THE BALL.
Foster began the sixth for the Colts, and bunted the ball. While running to first the ball bounded, striking him on the body, and Squire Graves declared the aboriginal individual out. Tate followed with a rock and Brodie made a hit over his head. Brodie to centre field. Reynolds ended hitting to shortstop. The one, two, three order prevailed with the visitors.

Leftwich began the seventh by striking Brodie. Bradley made a drive to right field and on B. Bradley's hit to about the same place of the field. Bradley puffed down to second. Kain's sacrifice advanced Bradley to third, and his brother ended the inning by going out, second to first.

Colburn, in the seventh, struck out. By a wild throw from Kain Brodie reached first, but Boyd's hit to Kain ended Brodie's career at second. A hit by Anspaugh sent Boyd to the second bag, but a fly by Wigmore ended the inning.

The one, two, three throng prevailed with the Colts in the eighth, but in the same inning the Mountaineers came as near scoring as any ball team ever did. It was an exciting period in the game for the spectators, and every man was extremely interested before the inning closed. Keeler was first at the bat, and drove a grounder to Tate, who coquetishly put the catcher out. Tate has a way of doing things. He is a very good player, and his slippish foot that is really catching. He is graceful at all times, but just in that particular play he showed greater advantage than ever before. Riley followed the Bedford City catcher, and a grand and graceful throw by Reynolds gave the Irish citizen his first base. Kain was next at the plate, and the sphere was hit by him to Kain. For some unknown reason Harry fumbled the ball after it had been thrown by Kain when he had a beautiful chance for a second base. The crowd wondered. Lyston then went to the bat, while the two men played "off" first and second bases and the pitcher hit to Kain. The clever shortstop shot, evidently vying with Leftwich, also made an error by sailing the sphere over to first base about ten feet above Tate's gloved hand. The runners advanced another base.

A GREAT CHANCE.
Colburn then had the chance of his life, for there were three men on bases and only one man out. The excitement was intense, and the crowd was on its feet. The sphere was hit by Kain, and the crowd bent over, threw away their cigar stumps and watched. "Three strikes" smote the air and Mr. Colburn retired from the batters' box.

The responsibility of bringing one of the men in last rested on Kain. He sauntered carelessly to the plate, and it looked as though he would bang the sphere for a single. His record during the game had been two singles and a base by an error of Kain's. Everybody looked upon him as a sure thing. He was a beautiful player, and the crowd was on its feet. The sphere was hit by Kain, and the crowd bent over, threw away their cigar stumps and watched. "Three strikes" smote the air and Mr. Colburn retired from the batters' box.

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